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18 May 1984

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84-253

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Intelligence Community Staff
Deputy Director for Operations
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Administration
Deputy Director for Science & Technology
Comptroller
General Counsel
Inspector General
Director, Public Affairs Office

FROM: Clair E. George
Director, Office of Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: Senator Goldwater's Reminder on
Oversight Responsibilities

1. Attached is a 7 May 1984 letter addressed to DCI Casey from Chairman Goldwater reminding the Agency of its responsibilities to keep the Intelligence Committees "fully and currently" informed of all intelligence activities. Senator Goldwater has requested that all offices and individuals who brief the SSCI on intelligence activities should be made aware of this requirement on a regular basis.

2. For this reason, I am attaching Senator Goldwater's letter and a short paper prepared by his staff on the statutory oversight process which should be appropriately distributed in your Office. Any further questions on this matter should be directed to [redacted] of my Office.

[redacted]
Clair E. George

Attachment

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

INTELLIGENCE, CHAIRMAN
ARMED SERVICES
TACTICAL WARFARE, CHAIRMAN
PREPAREDNESS
STRATEGIC AND THEATRE NUCLEAR FORCES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMUNICATIONS, CHAIRMAN
AVIATION
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SPACE
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Executive Registry

84-2047

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

84-1936

May 7, 1984

The Honorable William Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20250

Dear Bill:

I'm enclosing a short paper on the statutory system of Congressional Oversight.

What I would like you to do is to copy the marked paragraph on the first page and see that every one of your people who comes over to brief our Committee is aware of this. Bill, I can't emphasize too strongly the necessity of your complying with this law. A continuation of incomplete briefings or even a hint of dishonest briefings can cause you a lot of trouble.

With best wishes,


Barry Goldwater

SELECTED KEY FEATURES OF THE STATUTORY SYSTEM
FOR CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

The Intelligence Oversight Act of 1980 modified the Hughes-Ryan Amendment on Congressional notification of covert action operations, and added a new title V to the National Security Act of 1947, creating a statutory system of congressional oversight.

The 1980 oversight legislation represented an agreement between the Executive and Legislative branches to replace the previous requirement for "timely" reporting of covert actions to eight "appropriate" congressional committees* with a system that centralized oversight in the Intelligence Committees under a new set of requirements.

The current statutory system imposes upon the DCI and the heads of all other Intelligence Community organizations the obligation to:

-- keep the Intelligence Committees "fully and currently informed" of all intelligence activities, including "any significant anticipated intelligence activity."

The modified Hughes-Ryan Amendment specifies that each covert action operation is to be considered a "significant anticipated intelligence activity." This means that covert action operations must be reported to the Intelligence Committees prior to implementation in accordance with title V of the National Security Act.

* These eight Committees were the House and Senate Intelligence, Armed Services, Foreign Relations and Appropriations Committees.

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